

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1605995504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Avalon

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

900 block Olney-Sandy Spring Road

CITY, TOWN

Sandy Spring

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERICAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Steuart Ligon

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sandy Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-94

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	CHECK ONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD		<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR		<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is a rectangular-shaped, late-Federal brick house. The main (south) facade has five bays, with a central door. The door has transom and side-lights. Fireplace chimneys are internal, and are located in the east and west walls. There are two, widely-spaced, small dormers, and most of the window sash is 6/6.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-94

## PERIOD

PREHISTORIC

1400-1499

1500-1599

1600-1699

✓ 1700-1799

✓ 1800-1899

1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SCULPTURE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

THEATER

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

## SPECIFIC DATES

1855-56

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See (enclosed) Farquhar's OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONT.  
CO., MD. (1961) pp. 99-100.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:23-94

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## III FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

8/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

the dining room with a fireplace. Back of that room is the old kitchen. Just like the Colonial kitchens of much older houses, it has a fireplace seven feet wide, five feet high, thirty inches deep, brick-lined, with brick hearth and a bake oven with door still in place. Exposed oak beams form the ceiling.

To the left of the front hall is the living room with a fireplace and bay window. Mantels in the

dining room and living room are plain, and both rooms have oak floors. A stairway, winding first to a landing then turning 180 degrees, serves a second-floor bedroom on each side of the hall, the one on the right with private bath. The master bedroom to the left has a fireplace. Over the old kitchen is a weaving or carding room with sloping roof, the oak rafters of which have been left exposed.

## Avalon

THE attractive white brick house which stands well back from the Sandy Spring-Olney Highway is surrounded by a quantity of large trees and has been a familiar landmark for just over a century. It was built by Alban Gilpin in 1855-56.

Alban Gilpin and his wife, Rachel Gilpin, lived in Baltimore, and later in Brookeville where their daughter, Mary Ellicott Gilpin, was born May 29, 1852. In 1856 they moved into the new house shown above. This was her home for 90 years of an active useful life.

Mary's education was in public schools and at Fulford, the James Hallowell school. She was a great nature lover, and took much interest in her comfortable home and the fields, gardens, and surrounding trees which were always much admired by those who enjoyed her friendship.

Her father died in 1884, and the management of the home devolved upon her. She had ability in business affairs, and was made a director of the First National Bank of Sandy Spring. She also served as Director of the Citizens National Bank of Laurel. Her keen judgment and success in money matters were much admired.

After the death of her mother in 1892 she shared her home with relatives and friends, as she never married. She passed away on January 9, 1946, at the age of 94 years.

Miss Mary led a rather quiet and secluded life, rarely travelling far from home for any length of time. As her needs were few, and she knew the value of thrift, she left a sizeable fortune to her nieces.

In 1947, the notable old home with 27 acres of land, was sold to Dr. Charles H. Ligon by the Executor of Miss Mary's estate. The Ligans

have made a marvelous transformation of the rather sombre old brick house. Today it shines a bright white, is a delight to see standing back about 200 yards away from the highway, and flanked by huge shade trees. The expanse of several acres of well kept lawn, with big trees, dotted along the new driveway and a number of trees all around the house is an inviting sight.



NO. 11 E-9 ALBAN GILPIN 1855 BRICK

Completing the picture of a well kept country estate, are several hundred yards of post-and-pole fencing along the highway enclosing pasture lots, in front and to the rear of the house for keeping a flock of sheep within bounds. One who may have known the house in the days of Miss Gilpin, is astounded at the picture today.

There is a front door on the south side, and another door on the southeast corner, where a conservatory once bloomed. The main door leads into a hall with a narrow old stairway. On the right is a sort of living room, mostly for

the childrens' use. To the left of the hall is a formal parlor, to the rear of that is a dining room, and in back of that, a kitchen. An office or den with a wide century-old fireplace with a still treasured crane is a most comfortable lounging place.

A new wing with modern kitchen has been added in the rear of the old structure. A powder room is provided off the hallway, which leads to the kitchen and dining room. On the second floor are 4 bedrooms and one bath. This house today is one of the most convenient and comfortable ones to be seen in Sandy Spring.

Dr. Ligon was educated at Haverford College, and obtained his AB degree from Johns Hopkins University. He served two turns for the U. S., one of about 14 months, and a second time for two years on one of the ships of the U. S. Navy. His wife was a Baltimore girl.

Today he is plunged into a most important and valuable position in the community as the

successor to the beloved Dr. J. W. Bird, as head medical physician at the Montgomery General Hospital at Olney, where total admissions for the year ending April 30, 1961, were 4,102.

Dr. and Mrs. Ligon have three children, two boys at Westtown Friends School, and one daughter at Sherwood. This family is a most notable addition to the conservative community.

### BASEBALL FIELD

The smooth and nearly level pasture field between the Avalon house and the Sandy Spring store was a most popular place in the years from 1880 through 1900 on summer afternoons. It was used for thrilling baseball games between the hard-to-beat Sandy Spring team and rivals, such as Rockville and Highland of Howard County. In after-harvest and holiday time crowds would gather on foot, horseback, or in buggies, and cheer for the teams from seats in the conveyances or seats on the grass.

## Avon

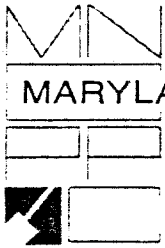
TWO and one-half miles from Rockville, on the North side of the state highway to Norbeck, stood Avon. For about eighty years the Colonial-type frame house was the home of some very interesting people.

Started in August, 1861, and completed the next spring, it was built by William S. Brooke of Willow Grove for his lovely bride-to-be, Mary Hallowell, in anticipation of their wedding. They were married by Friends' ceremony at Rockland on March 6, 1862. She was a beautiful and talented young woman of twenty-four with a fine musical voice, and was so universally loved and admired that her death after two years and eight months spent in their new home seemed a great tragedy. She left two infant daughters, Caroline and Mary.

"Willie" Brooke as he was called, was studious, well read, and a promising young man. He was born at Willow Grove in April, 1836, the son of Roger Brooke VI and Sarah Pleasants Brooke, the latter from Virginia. Roger VI died in 1868, and left his son, William, about 150 acres of land which Roger had inherited from his father, Roger V of Brooke

Grove. This was part of a tract of five hundred and fifty acres which Roger V had purchased in October, 1823, for \$2.70 per acre from the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Georgetown. The land, being mostly covered with pine forests, sage brush and briars, had not been cultivated when Willie set up his home there. He cleared the timber, stocked the farm with cattle and sheep, and in a few years made it productive. Willie's improvements at Avon recall the remark of a Yankee farmer about his barren hillside place. When a visitor complimented him on the good piece of work "you and God have done here" he replied: "You should have seen it when God had it alone."

William Brooke was a valued and esteemed citizen and was one of the original Directors of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, or Rockville Fair, when it originated in 1846. He was its President for two terms after 1881. Life began again for Willie Brooke in October, 1871, when he was married to Mary Coffin at Chatham, New York, and Avon became a cheerful happy home. It is likely that his little girls had spent most of the previous nine years at



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

March 21, 1986 MAR 24 1986

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
John L. Menke, Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
✓ J. Rodney Little, Director  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Philip Cantelon, Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator  
Community Planning North

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for  
Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern  
Montgomery County Resources

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I am pleased to transmit to you this Preliminary Draft  
Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation:  
Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission on approximately 80 historic sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, and Burtonsville areas of the County.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Amendment on Monday, April 21, 1986, at 7:30 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this specific Preliminary Draft Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws  
Attachment



PRELIMINARY DRAFT

AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED  
MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTHERN AND EASTERN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES

Including sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring,  
Aspen Hill, Norbeck and Burtonsville Areas

March 1986

An amendment to the 1980 Olney Master Plan, 1980 Sandy Spring/  
Ashton Special Study Plan, 1970 Aspen Hill Master Plan, and the  
1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan; being also an  
amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the  
Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of  
Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090



## APPENDIX A

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and were found not to merit designation of the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. If not included in the Master Plan, these resources may be removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County. If removed from the Locational Atlas, the sites will no longer be governed by the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The sites will, however, remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory.

The following sites were found by the Preservation Commission to be too greatly altered from the period of their architectural or historical significance or not to meet Ordinance criteria for designation.

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
15/31	Tyson House (Mrs. W. Chandlee House)	18600 Brooke Rd., Ashton
13/32	Brinklow Store & Post Office	18930 New Hampshire Ave. Brinklow
15/40	Rawlings Mill House	1820 Tucker Lane, Ashton
15/44	Pat Cuff House	1515 Ednor Rd., Ednor
15/48	Chimney Ruins	Oak Hill Rd.-North of Rt. 198, Spencerville
15/51	Drayton	16000 Oak Hill Road, Silver Spring
15/57	Murphy Ford Log House	16500 Block of Batson Rd., Spencerville
15/70	Harriet Lea House	18900 New Hampshire Ave., Brinklow
23/1	Gaither/Gray House	24241 Hipsley Mill Rd., Gaithersburg
23/2	Leamon/Faucett House	24405 Hipsley Mill Road, Gaithersburg
23/3	Dennis Thomas House	24501 Hipsley Mill Road, Laytonsville

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
23/91	Chandlee Miller's House	19320 Chandlee Mill Road, Sandy Spring
23/94	Avalon	1601 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring
23/96	Brooke Grove	End of Brooke Grove Road North of Rte. 108, Olney
23/98	Olney Historic District	Crossroads of Georgia Ave., and Rte. 108/Olney- Laytonsville Road
23/99	Samuel White House	4000 Olney-Laytonsville Road, Olney
23/107-2	Hyatt/Barnesley House	16640 Georgia Avenue, Olney
23/108	Brooke Manor/James Barnesley House	16300 Georgia Avenue, Olney
23/113	Norbeck Historic District	Crossroads of Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Rd.
23/116	Woodburn	16320 Batchellors Forest Road, Olney
23/117	Flint Hill I	Norbeck Road, Sandy Spring
27/8	Oak Lea Farm	14700 Argyle Club Road, Silver Spring
27/14	Houses at Layhill and Atwood Roads	Vicinity of Layhill and Atwood Roads, Silver Spring
28/4	Phillip T. Stabler Farm (Ruins)	New Hampshire Avenue near Rte. 108, Ashton
28/21	Bonifant Houses & Cemetery	1111 and 520 Bonifant Road, Layhill



NAME AVALON

#23-94

~~S.S. HIST. DIST.~~

LOCATION Rt 108 SANDY SPRING Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 8/14/75 M. DWYER